

REMARKS

Claims 1-34 are pending in the Application.

Claims 1-4, 9-12, 17-20, 22-25, and 27-30 stand rejected.

Claims 2, 5, 14, 18, 21, 23, 26, 28, and 31 are cancelled.

I. INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

After further consideration, Applicants determine that the reference designated by "ANA" in the IDS filed February 25, 2000 does not qualify as prior art since it was not publicly disclosed more than one year prior to the filing date of the Application.

II. REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1, 3, 9, 11, 17, 19, 22, 24, 27 and 29 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by *Annaamalai et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 6,445,715). Since these claims have been amended to incorporate claims not rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by *Annaamalai*, this rejection is moot.

III. REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 4, 10, 12, 20, 25, and 30 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over *Annaamalai et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 6,445,715). Since these claims have been amended to incorporate claims not rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable by *Annaamalai*, this rejection is moot.

IV. CLAIM OBJECTIONS

Claims 5-8, 13-16, 21, 26 and 31-34 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. Claims have been amended to be in independent form including all intervening claims, and are thus in condition for allowance.

V. CONCLUSION

As a result of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully assert that the claims remaining in the Application are in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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